



CALPEEK

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CAMPAIGN '98: CHECCHI TESTING DEMOCRATIC WATERS FOR A POSSIBLE RUN FOR GOVERNOR...

Editor's note: Some may say it's way too early for the 1998 campaign cycle, but with term limits and new campaign fundraising rules, candidates are already gearing up for *Campaign '98*. And one of the more interesting political newcomers who is testing the waters is Alfred A. Checchi, co-chair of Northwest Airlines. Here's our brief update & analysis...

...It was nice scoop for *L.A. Times* political writer Cathleen Decker to break her story about Checchi, who is a deep-pocketed Demo looking at a possible run to replace Pete Wilson as Calif.'s chief executive. While Checchi is not a household name, over the years he has been a big contributor to Demo candidates and causes, including \$29,000 to Dianne Feinstein's 1990 campaign for governor. In fact, Checchi and DiFi's husband, Richard Blum, are very tight and Blum even sits on the Board of Directors of Northwest Airlines...

...Checchi is already beginning to do those things that are necessary to launch a statewide campaign. Among those who are advising Checchi is Bob Burkett, a former top political aide to insider/contributors such as David Geffen, Ted Fields and Ron Burkle. And it's no secret Checchi has been talking to political guru/media whiz Bob Shrum - one of the big winners of Campaign '96. Some sources say it's more than idle chit-chat...

...Calif. political insiders (and the political reporters) will get a first hand look at Checchi when he gives a **major speech** to Town Hall in L.A. on Feb. 4th (12 noon, Biltmore Hotel). FYI: remember, Shrum was a speech writer for Ted Kennedy before he went into campaign consulting work. Aside from a few bits contained in Decker's story, Checchi remains a political unknown to many. Decker's article characterized the airline exec as a *progressive*, pro-business Demo, who

opposed both 187 & 209 and has doubts about the welfare reform bill signed into law by Pres. Bill Clinton...

...In talking with Demo sources, several are fairly certain Checchi will run for governor and they think he's prepared to spend \$20 million or more of his own to self-fund. Whether Checchi cleared his future political plans in advance with Blum is uncertain, but some of our sources believe he did. Does this mean DiFi won't run for governor in '98???

...FYI: In terms of the '98 Demo primary lineup, we're looking at Lt. Gov. Gray Davis - for sure; possibly Controller Kathleen Connell; perhaps Clinton COS Leon Panetta; and Checchi. Stay tuned...

KEY CALIFORNIA GOVT. DATES FOR THIS WEEK

Editor's note: The CA Legislature reconvenes on Jan. 6th to begin its new 1997-98 session. On Jan. 7th, Gov. Pete Wilson(R) will deliver his State-of-the-State address, followed on Jan. 9th by a news conference where he will unveil his new 1997-98 budget. The budget will be formally presented the next day. **Welfare reform** will be the #1 issue facing the CA Legislature. All other issues seem minor compared to this one topic. **Calpeek** sources expect Gov. Wilson to devote much of his State-of-the-State talk to this topic. We'll provide analysis next week. Stay tuned...

46th CD UPDATE: PROBE OF NONCITIZEN VOTING UNDERWAY. DORNAN WANTS A NEW ELECTION.

Editor's note: And you thought 1997 was going to be dull and boring. Here's our report & analysis about noncitizen voting in the 46th CD/Orange Co. area...

...Loretta Sanchez(D) defeated Bob Dornan by some 984 votes - but *B-I Bob* has formally requested the U.S. House Oversight Cmt. (chaired by U.S. Rep. Bill Thomas of Bakersfield) to set aside the results and

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order a new election, based upon his allegations of massive voter fraud. At the center of this firestorm is a Santa Ana-based immigrant/advocacy group known as Hermanidad Mexicana Nacional & the group's exec. director, Nativo Lopez. Probing the allegations are the CA Secretary of State and the Orange Co. DA's office, with assistance from the INS...

...Except for true believers, few really accepted what Dornan was claiming until the *L.A. Times* broke their Dec. 27th story - based on interviews with 19 legal immigrants who registered and voted before they were granted citizenship. Most were connected to Hermandad. The LAT story says Hermandad registered 1,357 people in 1996 --- and some 800 actually voted...

...From what **Calpeek** sources say, Sanchez's campaign did **no** voter registration work and *instead* relied upon the Demo Coordinated Campaign and 69th AD Demo candidate Lou Correa to handle that part of the campaign. In addition, sources confirm that she wasn't connected at all to the Hermandad operation, but she undoubtedly benefited from Hermandad's efforts. In fact, Lopez was a key backer of 46th CD pre-primary favorite Mike Farber, one of Sanchez's Demo rivals...

...For U.S. House Republicans, our sources say they have to be very careful with this case. Hispanics are already POed with the GOP for all that 187/anti-immigrant stuff and should House GOPers overturn the 46th CD election, our sources say it will be nearly impossible for the GOP to regain lost ground with this key bloc of voters...

...FYI: even more interesting now is the attitude of the so-called ***O.C. GOP Junta*** - the pols who control Republican Party politics in Orange Co. For months they have been bashing away non-stop at O.C. DA Mike Capizzi because his office is prosecuting GOP Assemblyman Scott Baugh of Huntington Beach and two others on charges of campaign reporting violations and voter fraud. Now that Capizzi is aggressively probing this 46th CD case, we're not hearing as much from the ***Junta***. Very interesting. Stay tuned...

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L.A. CITY ELECTION: THE BIG CAMPAIGNS ARE SET FOR APRIL 8TH ELECTION. HAYDEN WILL CHALLENGE RIORDAN.

Editor's note: Lots to report since our last update about the April 8th L.A. Municipal Election. Statements of intent to run must be filed by candidates no later than Jan. 13. Petitions (w/valid signatures) must be submitted by Feb. 3. Here's our update & analysis...

...**Calpeek** sources say State Sen. Tom Hayden(D-West L.A.) will challenge incumbent Mayor Richard Riordan. And sources confirm that Hayden has hired the San Diego-based Primacy Group(Larry Remer) as a consultant for his campaign. As for Riordan, he's hired consultant Bill Carrick. And the way our sources see it, Riordan won't be running against Hayden, but against the City Council, who oppose Riordan's plan to reform the 1925 city charter. No word yet on L.A. Councilman Nate Holden, but he'll probably run...

...But perhaps the more interesting race is the battle for City Attorney between incumbent Jim Hahn and challenger Ted Stein, a close Riordan ally. Like Riordan, Hahn too has hired Carrick. What happens if Riordan endorses Stein and wants Carrick to do a tv spot about that endorsement? Others on the Hahn team include: Matt Middlebrook - daily mgt.; and Fairbank Maslin Maullin - polling. Stein has hired the very hot DC-based Shrum, Devin & Donilon for media/tv; The Kamber Group (Harvey Englander) for daily mgt./mail; and Arnie Steinberg - polling. Stein's war chest is around \$800,000 --- and he'll need all that plus more to beat Hahn, but some think it's doable with *luck*...

...Charter Reform (revising the city's 71 year-old charter) is still just a tiny blip on the voter's radar, but Mayor Riordan's initiative (including elected charter reform commissioners) will be on the ballot and will be backed up with a combined **\$2.5 million** warchest. Winner/Wagner & Mandabach will handle media/tv for the initiative itself, while consultant Rick Taylor will run an independent expenditure effort on behalf of those commission candidates backed by Riordan...

...FYI: a more explosive issue than charter reform is the future of L.A. Police Chief Willie Williams. Will he get a second/5-yr. term? Before X-Mas Williams announced that he would submit papers for a second term, but **Calpeek** sources are holding to their earlier predictions that Williams will be turned down by the Police Commission. Both Hahn and Hayden have

endorsed Williams and this is why the Williams/2nd term deal could turn into a very hot political issue. More next week. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK'S '97 PHONY NEW BOOK & FILM DEALS.

Editor's note: *Esquire* has its Dubious Achievements Awards and *Texas Monthly* has its Bum Steer Awards. Now comes **Calpeek's** Phony New Book & Film Deals of 1997...

☺ New book: *How To Run for CA Insurance Commissioner Using Insurance Industry Money - And Get Away With It*, by Chuck Quackenbush(R)...

☺ New film: *Bubba Bustamante and the Magnificent 42*, produced by GOP Assembly Leader Curt Pringle. Executive Producer: Bob Dole...

☺ New book: *I'm Innocent*, fiction by GOP Assemblyman Scott Baugh of Huntington Beach, published by Carmony, Werft & Co. Producer Mike Capizzi has an option to buy the film rights...

☺ New film: *Fundraising Adventures In the Lincoln Bedroom*, screenplay by John Huang & Doris Matsui; produced by Bill Clinton and DNC Films...

☺ New book: *The \$500,000 Mistake - or How the Conservative Cabal Defeated Me Because I Got Almost No Help from the GOP Assembly Leadership*, by defeated 43rd AD GOP candidate John Geranios...

☺ New book: *I'll Take The Win Anyway It Comes*, non-fiction by new 43rd Assemblyman Scott Wildman (D). Sequel on its way: *Wildman: The One-Term Wonder*, co-authored by Sheldon Baker, Craig Misakian, Pete Musurlian and Peter Repovich...

☺ New book: *How To Date & Marry on the Internet - Successfully & Unsuccessfully*, by Assemblywoman Diane Martinez(D-Monterey Park)...

☺ New film in the works: *Leaving Las Vegas II*, produced, directed and starring LAPD Chief Willie Williams...

☺ New book: *We Never Saw A Ballot We Didn't Want To Be On*, by State Sen. Tom Hayden(D) and L.A. Councilman Nate Holden...

☺ New book: *The Fine Art of the Double-Digital Salute - and How & When To Give It*, by former Assemblyman Mickey Conroy(R-Orange Co.)...

☺ New book: *Why I Love Mickey Conroy*, by new Orange Co. Sup. Todd Spitzer - fiction published by The Kamber Group's Harvey Englander. Stay tuned...

SEN. POLANCO TO ADDRESS L.A. AFFAIRS FORUM.

State Sen. Richard Polanco(D-L.A.) will discuss the hot legislative issues confronting lawmakers when he addresses the L.A. Current Affairs Forum, 11:30 a.m., Jan. 10, Hyatt Regency Hotel, L.A. For info & RSVPs ☎ Emma Schafer (213)627-7427...

CALPEEK'S TOP 10 POLITICAL STORIES OF 1996.

Editor's note: A thank you to a number of regular **Calpeek** sources who helped compile this list of the Top 10 Political Stories of 1996...

#1 - Democrats retake the Calif. Assembly...

#2 - Bill Clinton's comeback & reelection...

#3 - The *apparent* defeat of U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan(R-Garden Grove) by Loretta Sanchez(D); and the post-election brouhaha over noncitizen voting...

#4 - *San Jose Mercury*'s story about the connection between the CIA and crack cocaine in South Central L.A....

#5 - The approval of Prop. 209 and subsequent legal battles over CCRI...

#6 - The approval of Prop. 215 and the post election political fallout...

#7 - West Hollywood's law banning the sale of cheap handguns...

#8 - The indictment in Orange Co. of Assemblyman Scott Baugh(R-Huntington Beach) and two others in connection with the 67th AD recall of Doris Allen...

#9 - The Newt Gingrich brouhaha...

#10 - The DNC/Clinton fundraising scandals of Campaign '96...

...Under-reported stories of 1996...

#1 - Tort Wars '96 - millions ventured, nothing gained over Props. 200, 201, 202, & 211...

#2 - The impact of new citizen voters...

#3 - The disaster awaiting Calif.'s political process as a result of the new open primary law and the approval of Prop. 208...

BUSINESS WEEK'S OUTLOOK '97 SET FOR JAN. 9th.

Business Week's panel of editors will present Outlook '97: Business, Politics & the Economy, 11:45 a.m., Jan. 9, Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. This event is co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Club of CA and the World Forum of Silicon Valley. For info ☎ (415) 597-6705...

CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ **Casino Gambling Initiative** - The CA Sec. of State's office has given the green light to Juanita Long of Fullerton to begin collecting 693,230 signatures for a constitutional amendment to legalize casino gaming at specified race tracks. The measure also would set up a 9-member CA Casino Gambling Commission. Each authorized casino would pay taxes to the state. Long has until May 16 to collect the signatures. She can be reached at (714)491-4121...

■ **Kim's Treasurer Indicted** - It's somewhat old news, but for the record, GOP U.S. Rep. Jay Kim's campaign treasurer, Seokuk Ma, was indicted before X-Mas on charges of receiving illegal corporate donations, failing to report those funds to the FEC and pressuring a witness to lie to a federal grand jury probing the whole 1992 Kim campaign. Kim has not been charged, but it's a sure bet that the Feds are getting closer to him...

■ **On Calpeek's Reading List** - The December issue of *Esquire*. Fascinating article by Randall Rothenberg titled "The Age of Spin." Combine campaign management with PR/PA/issues management & the news media and you get the veritable media Spindustrial complex. And remember: *there's no truth - only spin...*

INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE CAMPAIGN SEMINAR.

The structure, operation and effective use of *independent expenditure campaigns* will be the topic of a 4-hour seminar (7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.), Feb. 4, The Biltmore Hotel, L.A., presented by The Kamber Group in association with Reed & Davidson. For info & RSVPs ☎ Jerry Jeffe at (213)486-6560 (ext. 317)...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: political consultant Paul Clarke, husband of former Congresswoman Bobbi Fiedler(R), died Dec. 27 of lung cancer. He was 50. R.I.P...

● Charlton Research Co. moves from S.F. to 1460 Maria Lane, #410, Walnut Creek, CA 94596. New ☎(510)274-5900. E-Mail - charltonsf@aol.com...

● Sylvia Levin has been honored by the L.A. Co. Bd. of Supes for her voter registration work. It's estimated that she has registered more than 35,000 people in L.A. County since 1973...

● Engaged: two ex White House staffers - Joseph W. Cerrell (VP Al Gore's deputy press secretary) and Sara Grote (top aide to 1st Lady Hillary Clinton)...

● Larry Kaplan has been named as the key media contact in Calif. by U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer(D-CA). Kaplan works in Sen. Boxer's L.A. office ☎(310) 414-5748. On Capitol Hill, David Sandretti handles DC media ☎(202)224-3553...

● Sacto/Capitol insider Bill Hauck has been appointed president of the Calif. Business Roundtable...

CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK

● **Coro** seeks applicants for the **Fellows Program in Public Affairs**. This nine-month, full-time experience involves field assignments, seminars, interviews and public service projects. Applications due Feb. 14, 1997. Contact Dorothy Gamoning at (213)623-1234, email: dgamoning@coro.org; Web Site: www.coro.org...

● **The Calif. League of Conservation Voters** seeks a communications director to present the League to the outside world, especially the news media. The position may be located in San Francisco or Los Angeles. Applicants should be media savvy and politically astute. For a detailed job announcement, call (415)896-5550 ext. 307...

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